policy of reservation is being implemented successfully and the drop out rates of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes students are not found to be increasing.

Agreement for child protection with UNICEF

*28. MS. MABEL REBELLO:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of India has entered into a new agreement with UNICEF to check violence against children and reduce the rate of HIV/AIDS among adolescents during the next five years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government proposes to set up child protection units in different States under the Integrated Child Protection Scheme;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether this programme would go a long way to help SC/ST children, especially the girls; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) The Country Programme Action Plan (CPAP) for 2008-2012 was signed by Government of India with UNICEF on June 3, 2008, with the overall goal to advance the fulfilment of the rights of all children and women in India to survival, development, participation and protection by reducing social inequalities. The CPAP focuses on the reduction of infant mortality and maternal mortality rates, fighting undernutrition, tackling HIV/AIDS in children and adolescents, providing quality education, ensuring safe water and environmental sanitation, as well as progress on child protection issues.

(c) to (f) Ministry of Women and Child Development has formulated a new centrally sponsored scheme namely 'Integrated Child Protection Scheme' (ICPS) for implementation during the Eleventh Plan Period with the objective to provide a safe and secure environment to all children including girls and children from SC/ST communities who are in need of care and protection as well as children in conflict with law in the country. Under this Scheme, provision has been made for setting up of State Child Protection Society (SCPS) for every State and also for District Child Protection Society (DCPS) in every district of the country for coordination and effective implementation of the child protection legislation, schemes and achievement of child protection goals laid out in the National Plan of Action for Children 2005, at the State level and district level respectively. The Scheme is yet to receive competent approvals.

High Court Bench at Thiruvananthapuram

*29. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Kerala Government has unanimously passed a resolution and a joint memorandum of the State Ministry and all parties in the State demanding setting up of a High Court Bench at Thiruvananthapuram, the capital city of State which was received by the Government of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for not taking any steps to set up a High Court Bench there?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) An All Party Delegation led by Chief Minister and Leader of Opposition, Kerala has submitted Memoranda dated 15th April, 2008 and 6th September, 2008 to the Prime Minister and dated 30th April, 2008 to the President, *inter alia*, stating that the Kerala Legislative Assembly passed two resolutions in 1958 and 2004 for establishment of a Permanent Bench of Kerala High Court at Thiruvananthapuram.

The Chief Minister of Kerala was requested on 14th July, 2008 to clarify whether the proposal for establishing a High Court Bench at Thiruvananthapuram satisfied the broad principles and criteria recommended by the Jaswant Singh Commission. He was also requested to convey the views of the Chief Justice of Kerala High Court and those of the Governor of Kerala in terms of Section 51(2) of the States Reorganization Act, 1956. While a reply from Chief Minister of Kerala has been received, the views of the Governor of Kerala are awaited.

Solar Taxi

*30. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that one Mr. Palmer is reported to have developed a battery for solar taxi which, when charged, can travel 400 kilometers at a speed of 90 kilo-meters per hour and is on a visit to Poland en-route to various countries in Europe and USA;

(b) if so, the detail on technology gathered by Indian Scientists and technocrats;

(c) whether it is also a fact that some Indians have also invented solar energy based petrol-less engine for vehicles and submitted to Government for patent registration; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (b) As per the available information from the internet, Mr. Louis Palmer, a resident of Switzerland is using high energy ZEBRA batteries made from common salt, ceramics and nickel, for running a solar powered vehicle – the solar taxi in his world tour for promoting awareness about conserving energy resources and the environment.

(c) and (d) The Patent Office has informed that so far five patent applications have been filed in India for solar based vehicles. Out of these, one patent has been granted, another abandoned, one withdrawn and the rest are under their examination.